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Montana Green Thumb Workshop

Max S. Baucus

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Indexing Form

Senator * or Department*: **BAUCUS**

Instructions:

Prepare one form for insertion at the beginning of each record series.

Prepare and insert additional forms at points that you want to index.

For example: at the beginning of a new folder, briefing book, topic, project, or date sequence.

Record Type*: **Speeches & Remarks**

MONTH/YEAR of Records*: **April-1997**

(Example: JANUARY-2003)

(1) Subject*: **Small Business**

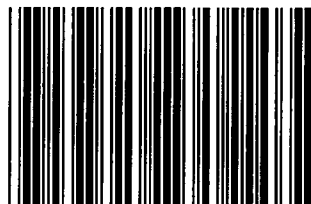
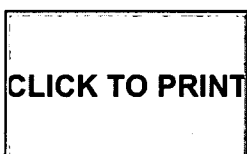
(select subject from controlled vocabulary, if your office has one)

(2) Subject* **Green Thumb Program**

DOCUMENT DATE*: **04/24/1997**

(Example: 01/12/1966)

* "required information"



BAUCUS

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: MAX
FROM: Giano
DATE: May 2, 1997
RE: Video Taping Speech

DATE: May 2, 1997
TIME: 9:30 am
PLACE: Senate Recording Studio
TOPIC: Tape to be played to at a Green Thumb Workshop in Bozeman
on Tuesday, May 6.
FORMAT: Video Tape
AUDIENCE: 25 to 30 Green Thumb Workers from around the state
Contact: Gwen

Remarks of Senator Max Baucus
Video Statement to
Montana Green Thumb Workshop

April 24, 1997

Hello everybody...

It is an honor to be speaking to you today at your workshop. I hope the things you learn today will help you in your mission to assist seniors who are eager to make positive contributions to their communities.

I'd like to take this opportunity to personally thank Natalie Cattin. She has worked tirelessly to keep me in close touch with Green Thumb projects across Montana.

I'd also like to thank George Erickson.

A lot of the success of Green Thumb is due to his work and to the hard work of many others who have tried to help Montana's seniors find better jobs.

I am a big fan of the Green Thumb program because I have seen the benefits it brings to Montana's seniors and Montana communities. Take for example Viola Peterman from Great Falls. She had 21 years of experience as an administrator and a Food Service Director. But despite that experience, she had trouble finding work.

Green Thumb helped her get trained as a Certified Nurses Aid.

With this new skill, Viola feels she "will always have a job wherever I go" because "there is such a shortage in this field that age doesn't matter."

Not only is Viola able to support herself with the new skills she has learned. Her time with Green Thumb enabled her to make a positive difference in her community of Great Falls.

Stories like Viola's are happening all the time in Montana.

PROMOTING VOLUNTEERISM

But that shouldn't surprise anyone. Montana prides itself on its strong sense of community spirit. That is part of what makes us the greatest state in the country.

Even more importantly, though, is that our Montana spirit is spreading. More and more, people are asking what they can do to help; and not asking what's in it for themselves.

One prime example of this new spirit can be seen in the Presidents' Summit for America's Future, which is designed to talk about and promote volunteerism in the United States. General Colin Powell is the general chairman. President Clinton and President Bush are co-chairs.

My hope is that this summit inspires people all across the country to roll up their sleeves and donate some time to make our communities and our lives better.

HOW GREEN THUMB FITS IN

While the volunteerism summit is a good idea. We should remember that many of its goals and objectives are the things that Green Thumb has been doing all along.

Whether it's helping out at the Mon-Dak Heritage Center in Sidney. Maintenance work at the Hill County court house in Havre. Or clerical work at the Eastern Montana Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Communities all across Montana have directly felt the benefits of the Green Thumb Program. Green Thumb is alive and well in Montana.

And we need to make sure that you continue to provide these needed services to all of us.

GREEN THUMB UNDER ATTACK

That hasn't always been easy. Last Congress, the funding for Green Thumb and other senior work programs became a political football.

Some folks still want to remove these programs from 30 years of federal jurisdiction. They want to block grant your funding and disallow the nine national aging organizations from participating in the program.

I think that's wrong. That is why I will fight to make sure Green Thumb and other aging programs remain healthy, strong and effective.

CONCLUSION

I commend you on the work you've done in the past year and I wish you well for many more years to come.

Again, thank you for letting me speak to you today. Enjoy the rest of your workshop.